

# Conservation Connections

Missouri Department of Conservation  
St. Louis Regional Newsletter

June 2010



## Lost Valley Trail Improvements

*By John Vogel, Wildlife Management Biologist*

The Lost Valley Trail on the Weldon Spring Conservation Area in St. Charles County has served as a popular hiking and mountain biking trail for many years.

The trail was originally designed to follow area service roads and old logging trails. Over time, a few sections of the trail had become heavily eroded and needed to be re-routed.

A local mountain biking organization called the Gateway Off-Road Cyclists (GORC) contacted the Missouri Department of Conservation and offered volunteer support to help improve the trail. The group proposed building some new sections of trail that would avoid the more heavily eroded sections. Initially, there was some concern about allowing a volunteer group to build new trails that would be used by the public for hiking and biking. Would the trails be suitable for all types of area users, including bikers of all skill levels? Could they build new trails through the area's rough terrain that would stand up to the heavy use the area receives? Could they get enough people who would be willing to put in

the time to build new trails? After inspecting some of the group's prior projects and learning more about the trail building expertise they

could offer, there was little doubt that GORC could become a valuable asset for the Lost Valley Trail. The group even took on some extra work by adopting the Lost Valley Trail through the MDC's Adopt-A-Trail Program.



GORC volunteers have provided over 1600 hours of service on Lost Valley Trail projects. All new trails were developed along the contour of hillsides to promote good drainage and reduce erosion potential. The total mileage of the Lost Valley Trail has

increased from 8 miles to 11.5 miles. The new trail sections that have been built are natural surface, 'single-track' style trail. The trail is heavily used by the public for hiking, biking, and trail running, but it also receives heavy use by hunters travelling to and from hunting locations. If you are up for a long trail hike or bike ride, come and visit the Lost Valley Trail!

# Columbia Bottom Conservation Area

June 2010

801 Strodtman Road, St. Louis, MO 63138 Office hours are Wednesday - Friday from 8 a.m. - 5 p.m.; Saturday - Sunday from 8 a.m. - 4 p.m.

**For reservations call (314) 877- 6014 Wednesday through Friday 8 a.m. - 5 p.m.; Saturday and Sunday 8 a.m. - 4 p.m.** If you are unable to attend a program, please call and cancel as a courtesy to those on our waiting list. Interpretive services are available for those with hearing loss with 5 days notice. From I-270 north take the Riverview Drive exit (last Missouri exit); go north approximately 2.8 miles. Riverview Drive becomes Columbia Bottom Road at its intersection with Larimore Road. The entrance is on the right-hand side. Visit [www.mdc.mo.gov/areas/areas/bottom/](http://www.mdc.mo.gov/areas/areas/bottom/)

## 6 Belle Bottom Hike It or Bike It

*Sunday*

*Registration: 8:30 a.m. - 10 a.m. Group led bike ride: 9 a.m.*

**Hike It:** 3-mile River's Edge Trail



**Bike It:** 10-mile route on the paved Confluence Trail

Celebrate National Trails Day at these family-friendly events that celebrate the trails at Columbia Bottom Conservation Area. Complete the routes on your own or join the group-led bike ride at 9 a.m. at the trailhead near the Visitor Center. 70's attire optional, cyclists are required to wear helmets. After the event visit these other sites in the Confluence:

Bellefontaine Park or Fort Bellefontaine. (Reservations not required) **In Partnership with: The Confluence Partnership and Trailnet**

## 19 Beaver Watch

*Saturday 8 p.m. - 9:30 p.m.*

(Adults) Join us as we enjoy the early summer evening with the beavers. We'll learn a bit about beavers and then take a short walk along the river bank to hopefully watch the Columbia Bottom beavers at work and play. How much we'll "see" will depend on how active the beavers are and how quietly we sit. We can still use our "night senses" to observe as we wait near the beaver den for them to start their nightly activities—they're called "busy beavers" for a reason! (Reservations begin June 4.)



## 25 Full Moon Over the Confluence

*Friday 7:30 p.m. - 9 p.m.*

(Ages 6 & up) Summer has just begun. Enjoy the warm night breezes as we take a leisurely walk from the slough to the Confluence to see the full strawberry moon rise over the Confluence. Nature's nightshift creatures will be starting on their evening activities. Bats and moths will glide silently by while crickets, katydids, and frogs sing their songs. We will look for "eyeshine" reflected in the eyes of the animals of the night. (Reservations begin June 11.)

## 26 Conservation Quest

*Saturday 10:30 a.m. - 3 p.m.*

(Adults) So you think you'd like to know Columbia Bottom Conservation Area. Are you ready to put it to the test? Conservation Quest is a challenging quest-based program designed to entertain while you learn more about Missouri's fish, forest, and wildlife at the Confluence. Gather a team of 2 - 4 adults to compete in this part scavenger hunt, part trivia challenge, and part road rally adventure. Apply all your skills to solve, crack, and decipher a variety of puzzles utilizing clues throughout the area. For more information and a set of rules stop by the visitor center or call 314-877-6014, Wednesday through Friday 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Saturday and Sunday 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. (Reservations begin June 12.)

## 15, 16, 17 and 18 Habitat Days

*Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday 10 a.m. - 2 p.m.*

(Ages 8 - 12) Habitat Days are a kids-only adventure! A habitat a day will keep summer boredom away. This will be a 4-day exploration of the Columbia Bottom habitat mosaic. We will immerse ourselves in a habitat a day including a prairie, forest and wetland. Sum it all up on Friday with a fishing field trip to Bellefontaine Conservation Area. The program will include hands-on investigation, crafts, arts, and a nature journal. Participants must sign up for all four days and bring a sack lunch. Parents please ask for a waiver to fill out when signing up. The reservation must be filled out by a parent or guardian and is not complete until the waiver is received by Columbia Bottom. (Reservations begin May 17 and end June 8.)

## 19 Basic Compass

*Saturday 8 a.m. - 10 a.m.*

(Ages 8 & up) Venture back in time before the GPS or other complex electronic devices to learn how we found our way in the "old days." Let's unravel the mystery of how a compass works and explore its many uses. Look forward to games and activities that help us practice using a compass as a navigational tool. Equipment will be provided or you can bring your own. (Reservations begin June 5.)





# August A. Busch Memorial Conservation Area

2360 Hwy D, St. Charles, MO 63304 Office hours are Monday - Friday from 8 a.m. - 5 p.m.

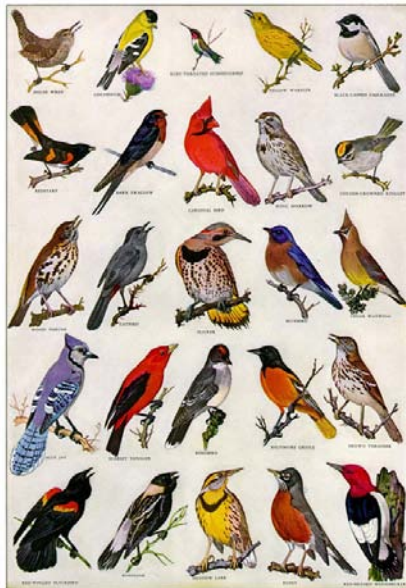
## For reservations call (636) 441-4554 Monday through Friday 8 a.m. - 5 p.m.

If you are unable to attend a program, please call and cancel as a courtesy to those on our waiting list. Interpretive services are available for those with hearing loss with 5 days notice. From I-40 take Hwy 94 south to Hwy D; turn west on Hwy D for approximately 2 miles. The area entrance is on the north side of Hwy D. Visit [www.mdc.mo.gov/areas/cnc/busch/](http://www.mdc.mo.gov/areas/cnc/busch/)

### 5 MTC Hike: Resident Birds and Other Animals

Saturday 7:30 a.m. - 1 p.m.

(Adults) Join us for an early morning 5-mile hike at the Marais Temps Clair Conservation Area. We will be looking for resident birds and other animals that make their home at MTC. Your naturalist hiking guides will provide spotting scopes to view the wildlife at a distance. Our early start is perfectly timed to catch birds at their most active hours in the comfortable temperatures and diverse habitat of the MTC marsh habitat. (Reservations begin May 21.)



### 9 Digital Photography and the Nature Journal

Wednesday 10 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.

(Ages 10 & up) A nature journal may be filled with notes, doodles, sketches, photographs, fascinating information, and new ways of looking at the natural world. Bring your digital camera to see how you can use it as a curious naturalist. You will learn tricks and tips to capturing better pictures and head outside to take photos for your nature journals. (Reservations begin May 26.)



### 10 Discover Nature — Women: Fishing and Fish Fry

Thursday 8 a.m. - Noon

(Adults ages 18 & up) Need a ladies' day at the lake but don't want to drive to the Ozarks? Come out to Busch for a ladies' day of fishing. Whether you've never been fishing or it's been a long time, come out and enjoy a fishing day with our naturalists. We'll guide you through bait, lures, casting, and more as you learn to catch bluegill, bass, and catfish. But we won't stop there, because the next step is cleaning and cooking your catch for a tasty treat to fully appreciate your hard work. A valid fishing license is required and can be purchased for \$7 for a one day license or \$12 for a full year. (Reservations begin May 27.)



### 16 Pictures in the Sun

Wednesday 9:30 a.m. - 11 a.m.

(Ages 6 - 12) Soak up the early summer sun and connect to nature while making works of art by using plants. You'll choose from leaves and flowers that have been dried and pressed to put on special, light sensitive paper. You'll expose your work to sun and water to make a unique picture of nature. (Reservations begin June 2.)



### 26 Bike Ride from Research Park to KATY Trail

Saturday 8 a.m. - 10 a.m.

(Ages 12 & up) Come out and join us for a bike ride on the new Missouri Research Park Bike Trail at Weldon Spring completed by The Great Rivers Greenway District. This program is brought to you in cooperation with Trailnet and will be lead by conservation naturalists of the Missouri Department of Conservation. We will include several stops for brief interpretive programs featuring the plants and animals that live in the surrounding forest of the Weldon Spring Conservation Area. Trailhead is located at the Missouri Research Park near Hwy 40 and 94. (Reservations begin June 11.)

# Rockwoods Reservation

June 2010

2751 Glencoe Road, Wildwood, MO 63038 Office hours are Monday – Friday from 8 a.m. – 5 p.m.

## For reservations call (636) 458-2236 Monday through Friday 8 a.m. - 5 p.m.

If you are unable to attend a program, please call and cancel as a courtesy to those on our waiting list. Interpretive services are available for those with hearing loss with 5 days notice. From I-44 take Hwy 109 north 4 miles to Woods Avenue; left on Woods Avenue, then immediately right on Glencoe Road. From Manchester Road take Hwy 109 south 2 miles to Woods Avenue; right on Woods Avenue, then immediately right on Glencoe Road. Visit [www.mdc.mo.gov/areas/stlouis/](http://www.mdc.mo.gov/areas/stlouis/)

## 2 Rockwoods Cave Restoration Service Project

Wednesday 10 a.m. – 2 p.m.

(Ages 10 & up) Play your part in protecting Missouri's natural resources by venturing into the Rockwoods Cave to turn back the clock on years of improper cave use. The bats, salamanders, insects and spiders need your help in removing trash and graffiti from their home. After learning about caves and cave life, we'll go into the cave to get nice and dirty while we clean. We'll supply the brushes and trash bags if you supply the muscle. Please wear long pants, long sleeved shirt, close toed shoes, and work gloves. Please also bring a flashlight, lunch, and water bottle. Caving helmets will be provided. (Reservations begin May 19.)



## 18 Cave Exploration!

Friday

Morning session: 10:30 a.m. – Noon

Afternoon session: 1 p.m. – 2:30 p.m.

(Ages 7 & up) Would you like to experience the twilight zone and meet with a real troglophile? This is just an example of the strange and mysterious things you'll see and experience while exploring the diverse habitat of the "Bathtub Cave." We'll also discuss the fragility of cave ecosystems and see human disturbances being made right with ongoing restoration efforts to help clean up the cave. This wild cave adventure requires crawling on your stomach, hands and knees and getting dirty. Please wear a long-sleeved shirt, long pants, closed toed shoes, and bring a flashlight. Helmets will be provided. (Reservations begin June 4.)

## 8 Cave Exploration! — Scout Day

Tuesday

Morning session: 10:30 a.m. – Noon

Afternoon session: 1 p.m. – 2:30 p.m.

(Ages 7 & up) Would you like to experience the twilight zone and meet with a real troglophile? Bring your Scouts out for strange and mysterious things to see and experience while exploring the diverse habitat of the "Bathtub Cave." We'll also discuss the fragility of cave ecosystems and see human disturbances being made right with ongoing restoration efforts to help clean up the cave. This wild cave adventure requires crawling on your stomach, hands and knees, and getting dirty. Please wear a long-sleeved shirt, long pants, closed toed shoes, and bring a flashlight. Helmets will be provided. (Reservations begin May 25.)

## 19 Soap Making for Kids

Saturday 11 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.

(Families ages 6 & up) Have you ever wondered where soap comes from? In this program we'll teach you how wildlife has played a historic role in this process and how the making of soap is different today. Then we'll try our hand at making some soap. (Reservations begin June 4.)



## 23 Start Your Own Nature Journal

Wednesday 10 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.

(Ages 10 & up) Become a curious naturalist and start your own nature journal with notes, doodles, sketches, photographs, fascinating information, and new ways of looking at the natural world. Learn to draw animals, artifacts, even the sounds of birds, and much more. We will learn to use the valuable information from the scratchy drawings and scribbled notes we make to develop our observational skills. (Reservations begin June 9.)

## 26 Bushwhacking

Saturday 9 a.m. – 11 a.m.

(Families ages 10 & up) Would you like to explore some of Rockwood's hidden trails? You may be surprised at what unique natural treasures we might find. Come prepared to learn how to tread softly while hiking through rugged areas in any type of weather condition. (Reservations begin June 11.)



# Busch Shooting Range and Outdoor Education Center

June 2010

2360 Hwy D, St. Charles, MO 63304

Hours are: December 1 - March 31 open Monday, Tuesday, Friday, Saturday, and Sunday from 10 a.m. - 4 p.m.

April 1 - November 30 open Monday, Friday, Saturday, and Sunday from 10 a.m. - 4 p.m., and Tuesday from 2 p.m. - 8 p.m.

Closed all State and Federal Holidays.

**For reservations call (636) 441-4554 Monday through Friday 8 a.m. - 5 p.m.**

If you are unable to attend a program, please call and cancel as a courtesy to those on our waiting list. Interpretive services are available for those with hearing loss with 5 days notice. From I-40 take Hwy 94 south to Hwy D; turn west on Hwy D for approximately 5 miles. The area entrance is on the south side of Hwy D.

Visit <http://www.mdc.mo.gov/areas/ranges/busch/>



## 19 Basic Trap

*Saturday 4 p.m. - 8 p.m.*

(Ages 14 & up) This is an introductory class to the sport of trap shooting. This program is designed for those who have had some experience with shotguns, and want to improve their skills, learn the basics of trap shooting, and become a successful trap shooter. The class portion will cover layout of the trap field, chokes, distances, stances, gun mount, different techniques, and above all safety. Then we go to the range to practice and develop new skills. Participants under 18 must be accompanied by an adult. You can bring your own equipment or we can provide it for you. (Reservations begin May 19.)

## 3 & 5 Basic Handgun

*Thursday & Saturday 6 p.m. - 8 p.m. & 8 a.m. - 10 a.m.*

(Ages 14 & up) This program is designed to teach how to safely and successfully handle and shoot a handgun. We will teach about various actions and calibers along with grip, stance, sight picture, and safety. You may bring your own gun or we will supply one for you. Participants 14 -17 need to be accompanied by an adult. (Reservations begin May 3.)

## 14 - 18 HED — Day Camp

*Monday - Friday, 8:30 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.*

(Ages 11 - 15) During this week long camp the students will complete the Missouri Hunter Education certification requirements along with additional training in the different firearms, rifle, and shotgun. These activities will include indoor classroom activities and outdoor activities. Dress for the weather, bring lunch and drinks. Insect repellent may be useful. (Reservations begin May 14.)

## 29, 30, 1 Archery Day Camp

*Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday 8 a.m. - Noon*

(Ages 11 -15) This 3 day program will be held at the archery range on the Busch property. We will be outside so dress for the weather including snacks, drinks, and insect repellent. This is an introductory class which will cover the aspects of learning how to shoot a bow safely and successfully. (Reservations begin May 28.)



For a complete listing of all Hunter Education and Bowhunter Education classes throughout the region, visit the web at [www.mdc.mo.gov/area/stlouis](http://www.mdc.mo.gov/area/stlouis) and click on the "Hunter Education" link on the left of the page.



# Jay Henges Shooting Range and Outdoor Education Center

June 2010

1100 Antire Road, High Ridge, MO 63049

Range Hours: May 1 - August 31: Wednesday 1 p.m. - 7:30 p.m., Thursday - Sunday 10 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

September 1 - April 30: Wednesday - Sunday 10 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

Closed on Mondays and Tuesdays and all State and Federal Holidays.

**For reservations call (636) 938-9548 Wednesday through Sunday 10 a.m. - 4 p.m.**

If you are unable to attend a program, please call and cancel as a courtesy to those on our waiting list. Interpretive services are available for those with hearing loss with 5 days notice. From the east/St. Louis: I-44 west to Beaumont/Antire Road, exit 269. Left over I-44 to Antire Road. Right on Antire road. One hundred feet to entrance. Left into driveway. From the west/Eureka: I-44 east to Beaumont/Antire Road, exit 269. Follow exit lane around to top.

Visit <http://www.mdc.mo.gov/areas/ranges/henges/>

## 5 Introduction to Trapshooting

*Saturday 1 p.m. - 3:30 p.m.*

(Ages 12 & up) If you enjoy shooting a shotgun, but don't know the specifics of the game of trapshooting, then join us for this program. We'll learn the basics of competitive trapshooting. We'll cover appropriate guns and ammunition, rules of the game, field etiquette, and shoot a round for score. Trapshooting is a great lifetime sport. (Reservations begin May 5.)

**Rifle/Pistol Range closed for renovation. Trap, Shotgun Patterning, and Archery ranges open**

## 24 Basic Archery

*Thursday 6 p.m. - 8 p.m.*

(Families) Learn the fundamentals of shooting the bow and arrow based on the Missouri National Archery in the School Program (MONASP). We'll cover the eleven steps to archery success. This is a fun program for the whole family. All equipment will be provided. *Discover Nature- Families* programs are designed to help adults and children explore nature and master outdoor skills together. Class size is limited to 20. (Reservations begin May 24.)

## 7 - 10 Hunter Education Day Camp

*Monday - Thursday 9 a.m. - 3 p.m.*

(Ages 11 - 15) Our annual Youth Hunter Education day camp incorporates the Missouri Hunter Education certification course, shooting activities, and other hunting related skills. A birth certificate is required for age verification. Participants bring their own lunches Monday through Wednesday and we will provide a pizza party on Thursday. For reservations, you must call the range office at 636-938-9548. (Reservations begin May 7.)

## 26 Basic Shotgun

*Saturday 1 p.m. - 3:30 p.m.*

(Ages 12 & up) This is an introductory program for beginning shotgunners who want to learn the correct way to get started in shotgun sports. We will discuss appropriate shotguns, correct fit, gauge and ammunition selection, proper stance, mount, movement, and vision. All participants will have an opportunity to break some clay targets after the classroom portion of the program. The shooting portion of this program is not appropriate for children under 90 lbs. weight. (Reservations begin May 26.)

## 16 Metallic Cartridge Reloading

*Wednesday 6:30 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.*

(Ages 11 & up) Since factory rifle ammunition may cost \$35 or more per box, it is worth the time and effort to learn to reload your own rifle ammunition. We will demonstrate the low cost, basic equipment needed for reloading rifle cartridges, and the simple methods of producing high quality, accurate ammunition. (Reservations begin May 16.)

## 17 Women's Introduction to Handguns

*Thursday 6:30 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.*



(Ages 16 & up) Join us for a hands-on look at various types of handguns. We'll provide various examples to handle, as you learn about the working mechanisms of revolvers, semi-automatics and some others. We'll discuss caliber and ammunition selection. This course is a

good opportunity to "decide before you buy." There is no range time involved in this introductory program. (Reservations begin May 17.)

## 28 - 30 Youth Trap Camp

*Monday - Wednesday 9 a.m. - Noon*

(Ages 11 - 17) This three-morning camp is based on the game of competitive trapshooting. Participants will learn fundamentals of 16-yard singles trapshooting. This camp is appropriate for participants from 6<sup>th</sup> grade through 11<sup>th</sup> grade who can physically shoot at least 100 targets per day. (Reservations begin May 28.)

*For a complete listing of all Hunter Education and Bowhunter Education classes throughout the region, visit the web at [www.mdc.mo.gov](http://www.mdc.mo.gov) and click on the "Hunter Education" link on the left of the page.*

# Powder Valley Conservation Nature Center

11715 Cragwold Road, Kirkwood, MO 63122

**Building hours** Tuesday through Saturday: 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Sunday and Monday: Closed

**Area and trails** open seven days a week 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. during Central Standard Time and 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. during Daylight Saving Time.

## 2 Discover Nature — Families: Dusk Hike

Wednesday 7 p.m. — 8:30 p.m.

(Ages 6 & up) “Diurnal,” “nocturnal,” and “crepuscular” are all terms that describe the period of day in which an animal is active.

We’ll discuss the sleeping schedules of some common Missouri animals, and then take a hike to view those active at dusk. (Reservations begin May 19.)



## 9 Linger Longer at Powder Valley!

Wednesday 5 p.m. — 8 p.m.

(All Ages) Once again, Powder Valley’s building hours will be extended until 8 p.m. Enjoy the exhibits, discovery tables, and gift shop as you “linger longer” at the Nature Center! Be sure to “linger” at the wildlife viewing area to see which animals dine at dusk. Linger Longer evenings will be offered once a month through October. (No reservations are required.)



## 3 Let’s Build a Bird House!

Thursday 10:30 a.m. — 11:15 a.m.

(Ages 3 - 6) Join us to learn about the birds nesting in your backyard. We’ll build a bird house for you to take home. (Reservations begin May 20.)



## 3 Creepy Crawlers

Thursday 1:30 p.m. — 3 p.m.

(Ages 3 - 6) June is a great month to enjoy the outdoors. Warm weather and long days coax us outside, but then bugs drive us back inside. Annoying critters like mosquitoes, ticks, and chiggers might make summer a little less enjoyable, but they can still be pretty interesting. Come to Powder Valley to learn more about Missouri’s insects and arachnids.

We will examine different types of “bugs” and some of the ways that they can benefit humans. Our class will conclude with an outside bug study where students will be encouraged to catch as many “creepy crawlers” as possible! (Reservations begin May 20.)



## 11 Animal Babies

Friday 10 a.m. — 11 a.m.

(Ages 5 - 9) This is a good time of year to celebrate furry little animal babies. Aren’t they the cutest little things? They wake up, dash around, leap and jump, play hard with each other, and then cuddle up and fall asleep again. While their parents feed, protect, and teach them, the babies are learning about the world around them and practicing skills they will need when they grow up. Help us celebrate animal babies, and make a furry little animal or two to take home. (Reservations begin May 27.)



**Volunteer Milestones**  
John Sanders 200 hours

## 11 Beginning Birding

Friday 10:30 a.m. — 11:15 a.m.

(Ages 3 - 6) Come learn about all the beautiful birds in your neighborhood. We’ll make “binoculars” and hike a trail! (Reservations begin May 27.)



## 5 Leaf Identification

Saturday 8:30 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.

(Ages 16 & up) Learn how to identify many of Missouri’s amazing trees by studying the basic structures of their leaves. Use your new knowledge out on the trail to identify several of the trees along Tanglevine Trail. (Reservations begin May 20.)



## For reservations call (314) 301-1500

If you are unable to attend a program, please call and cancel as a courtesy to those on our waiting list. Interpretive services are available for those with hearing loss with 5 days notice. From I-44 east to Kirkwood, take S. Kirkwood Road (Route 61/67). Follow Route 61/67 to Watson Road. Go west on Watson Road to Geyer Road. Go north on Geyer Road 200 yards to Cragwold Road. Go 1 mile west on Cragwold Road. Visit [www.mdc.mo.gov/areas/cnc/powder/](http://www.mdc.mo.gov/areas/cnc/powder/)

## Powder Valley Hallway Exhibit

Richard Spener Photography



Powder Valley welcomes photographer Richard Spener. He has lived in St. Louis since childhood, but the objects of his photographs, exhibited in newspapers, on calendars, and in slide show presentations, range from his yearly trips to the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge to forays to Central and South America. His extensive travels, with his wife, Toni Armstrong, and their daughter, Alena, enable him to capture the right moment for a photograph that will be a work of art.

### 12 Greet the Photographer Reception

Saturday 2 p.m. - 4 p.m.

Take this opportunity to meet the photographer, Richard Spener. Richard's energy and eye for the beauty of wildlife and landscape comes across to all who see his work. (No reservations are required.)



### 23 Getting Antsy

Wednesday 9:30 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.

(Ages 7 - 12) If you watch carefully outside, the first animal you see will probably be an ant. Ants are everywhere, every day, but how much do we know about their lives and their colonies? Learn about these interesting social insects and their wide variety of lifestyles. Weather permitting, this program will include an outdoor walk to see Powder Valley's biggest colony of ants. (Reservations begin June 9.)



### 24 Homeschool: Movin' with the Trees

Thursday 9:30 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.

(Ages 8 - 12) Come to Powder Valley and spend time under the trees. There we will observe the various layers of the forest and the animals that live in this woody habitat. Learn to identify trees and participate in many activities including journaling, games, and hiking. Can you think of ten reasons why trees are important to people and animals? Bring your list to share! The entire program will be conducted outside! Be sure to dress for the weather. (Reservations begin June 10.)

## Forest Park Office

5595 Grand Drive, St. Louis, MO 63112 Office hours are Monday - Friday from 8 a.m. - 5 p.m

### For reservations call (314) 877-1309 Monday through Friday 8 a.m. - 5 p.m.

If you are unable to attend a program, please call and cancel as a courtesy to those on our waiting list. Interpretive services are available for those with hearing loss with 5 days notice. From I-44 take Kingshighway north to West Pine Boulevard, turn left. Follow West Pine to Lindell, turn left onto Lindell. Continue on Lindell past Union Drive to Cricket, turn left. Take first available right onto Grand Drive. The Visitors Center is the tan brick, red tile-roofed building with arched windows, and a clock tower. It will be on the right side of the street. Free parking is available in the double lot to the left or on the street.

### 8 Trees — What Are They Good For?

Tuesday 10 a.m. - Noon

(Ages 5 - 10) Walking through Kennedy Forest at this time of year definitely shades us from the warm sun. These trees will even shelter us from the rain. But what else is this forest good for? Animals, including humans, and plants depend on the forest in many ways. You'll be surprised to see just how beneficial trees are in our everyday lives! This program will meet at the Pavilion in the JFK Memorial Forest. Bring a water bottle and dress for the weather, rain or shine! (Reservations begin May 18.)

